



Volume 24

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

December 2015

Counterpoise Editor - Sue Robins AF6LJ

Annual ARCEC Christmas Party and Elections

By Sue Robins AF6LJ

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon closed out 2015 with our annual Christmas party and raffle. We had a large turnout for the event which also included Officer, Board, and Ham of the Year elections. There was a great deal of food, and plenty of comradery amongst members. A number of items were given away as prizes during the two raffles that were held. One raffle was for a number of items that were donated by the club and members, one could purchase as many tickets as they wished, the money going into the club treasury. The second drawing was for an MFJ power supply donated by Sue Robins AF6LJ Each person received a ticket, then Sue drew the winning ticket.

Elections were held, at our December meeting. The Officers and Board were unopposed leaving Ham of the Year with two candidates.



Terry Andrews, K6TRY, and Paul Thompson, KJ6BYF were nominated for Ham of the Year. Terry has been our Social Director for the last year, Paul has been our webmaster. Both have done a fabulous job in their respective positions and we owe them a great debit for their time and effort. There was no shortage of food as is usually the case at our Christmas party. The members brought some mighty tasty food it was wonderful.





Seen above are the prizes that were raffled off. We also had a silent auction, radio equipment that was donated to the club was auctioned off in a silent auction. Seen below are the items auctioned off.

This has been a great year for our club, next year promises to be even better.



He set up his Kenwood mobile radio with a roll-up J Pole antenna propped in the window to allow the kids to speak to one of the Santas (Mark or Tom). Terry and Shirley maintained a laptop for back channel messages to the Santas. Ashley encouraged kids to step up to the microphone. With this setup the kids would be surprised that Santa could 'see' them! By using the laptop the elves could tell Santa what the kids looked like and possibly what to expect under the tree. This gathered huge smiles and some concern that they wanted to be sure they were on the 'Good List'.

ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 222.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2



All this fun was made possible by using the 2 meter repeater owned by the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon and the wifi connection donated by Cox Cable. A Great and Cheerful Thank You to both organizations.

Four hours on both Saturday and Sunday left everyone laughing and giggling from watching those adorable kids! There were shy kids, quiet kids and wonderful laughing kids! Everyone who walked by got treated to the great Ho Ho Ho from our awesome Santas! Adults and children alike went through the rest of their day smiling!

Amateur Radio embodies emergency communications as any good operator will tell you. Using our radios for community service like this promotes Amateur Radio and helps everyone. Bringing Santa to the community in this manner taught quite a few adults how valuable radio is. Now it is up to the Amateur Radio community to think up more fun ideas!



Merry Christmas

Next Month's Meeting Award presentation, Ham of the Year &

Noise Reduction, and the Active Loop Antenna

Sue Robins AF6LJ will be giving a presentation on noise reduction and the use of an active loop antenna to achieve a higher signal to noise ratio. The discussion will touch briefly on the history of and the techniques employed in noise reduction as it applies to communications on the high frequency amateur bands. We hope to see you there.

A Christmas Morning Radio Install

*By Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ edited by Sue Robins
AF6LJ*

I installed a Tracker in my wife's car so I can see exactly where she is at all times. I need to know this as she is in great danger of getting carjacked, or her Camry might get stolen, besides I like to watch her drive home every night while I lay in bed waiting on dinner!!

The as-installed tracker worked great for all this time, but then it started to get flaky. I would

not see her while she drove down Hi-67. Was there a Tracker Failure?? Then it stopped completely!

After investigation, we found the coax to her antenna was bad, so I bought her a new antenna mount. That got it working again (I later found a bad coax connector connection and repaired that) But the coverage was still spotty. HMMM.....

So I decided to build her a NEW tracker I needed a box to enclose it, and didn't have one, but I found a kids makeup case at the swap meet for a buck and scored that. The radio used was a Yaesu FT-50R Handy talkie and Radio Shack 30W Brick power amp. That was tested and it was still working fine. So what was the problem??? Maybe the DIGI for North County had gone down. So I need more power to hit other Digis!

I began to collect the parts needed for the project. First I needed a new Radio. I resisted buying a brand new one but later found a Perfect Condition Yaesu FT1900R for \$50!!!! What a deal, that is good for 55 Watts out.

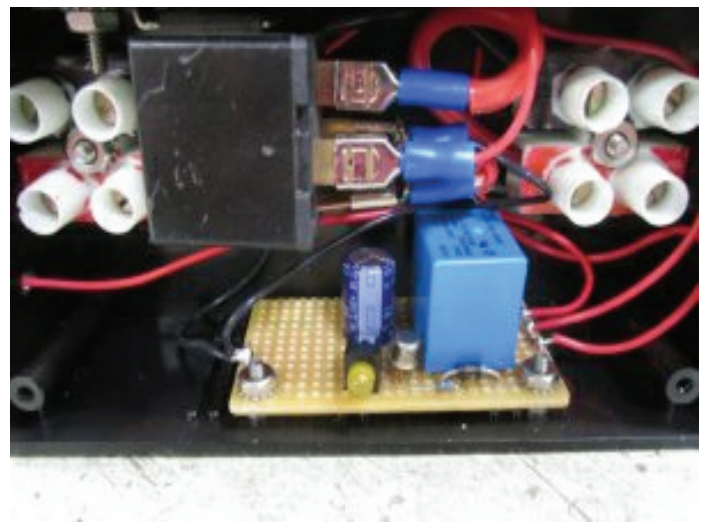


Here is the old and new Tracker guts.

I assembled that in the Makeup case and tried it out. It made one transmission and suddenly the car power went dark! Fuse, Nope, more serious than that. It turns out the Power outlet I had the tracker plugged into had smoked big time!! Now my wife could no longer charge her cell phone while she drove. giant step backwards.

A new plan was started. I would run a cable to the battery (like it is SUPPOSED to be done) The mortal flaw in that plan is that the tracker would never turn off. We need a new homebrew device

to solve this problem. And so I designed and built the Cat Ranch Electronics Delay Timer/Switch which senses the ignition turned on and then enables a relay which powers the tracker.



Here is what's inside.

There is a 3 second delay after the ignition is sensed to allow for no starting transients which have been found to scramble the TNC on the KPC3. The Delay works great. But now I have the most difficult task ahead of me. getting the power zip cord through the Camry firewall. I found a wiring harness going through and decided that was the only hope. To prepare for it, I made a special assembly to pass my wiring through the firewall. A coat hanger was procured and cut to about 1 foot. then both wires on the zip cord were soldered together. That was attached to the coat hanger with a loop and then covered with heat shrink tubing so it wouldn't snag anything. Now I went to great extents to get it passed through the firewall. I sprayed the entrance with silicone spray to make it slippery. The leading edge of the coat hanger was

filed down to a pointy tip to pierce the grommet. I tried for nearly an hour to get it in and almost gave up. But then I gave it one last try and it finally pierced the dual grommets and came out in the engine compartment.



But the hard work wasn't done yet. I now had to attach it safely to the battery. At the auto parts store I scored a resettable circuit breaker. It had 2 studs on it, not something I wanted bouncing around in the engine compartment, so I installed it in a plastic box. Back to the inside of the car. the SENSE wire was connected to the fuse box to the place the Ignition applied voltage to the Power outlet. I installed a 25A fuse there so it will never blow, though it only senses the voltage (all the current goes through the power pole connectors and big relay). The time delay box was connected and tucked out of the way.

Now back to the Trunk where the tracker is. I had also installed a pair of 12V fans under the FT1900R to keep it cool and drilled holes in the makeup case to allow for cool air to enter and exit.



While I was at it, I had this ICOM IC-207H I got at the swap meet for \$5 (tested and works great) That was installed along with the wife's Power strip for her cell phone charger.

It was almost 10AM Time to go to CHURCH for Christmas Mass. And that's what I did Christmas morning while the rest of the world was opening presents and having a leisurely breakfast.

The San Diego Morse Code Practice Group

Mark Wardwell KB6PJU has been running a code practice group on the WA6BGS VHF and UHF repeaters. The repeaters are linked to accommodate the needs and accessibility of all who wish to participate. The code practice Group meets at 7:00 PM Pacific time on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

You can discuss the San Diego Morse Code Practice Group here;

<http://www.arrl.org/forum/topics/view/1536>

And here;

<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/new-2-meter-repeater-cw-teaching-method-developed.492738/>

Club Membership & Dues

Club dues and new memberships can now be paid online. The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon website wa6bgs.us has been updated to accept membership dues, and new members. The link is at the top of the page, just follow the instructions on the Join / Renew page. Our website is a work in progress and there will be more good things to follow in the months ahead, so visit often.

See You Next Year

Latest Swap Meet Listings

See [URL: http://wa6bgs.us/swapmeetlegal.html](http://wa6bgs.us/swapmeetlegal.html) for more listings and posting guidelines..

ITEM FOR TRADE OR GIVE AWAY

I made a mistake when ordering new solder station heater elements off ebay, and now I have two I cannot use. These are inexpensive items and not worth returning, so I'm offering them for FREE, unless you did the same thing and then we might trade.

24v 50w Hakko Heating Element A1321 for 900M 900L 907 908 913 914

I have two of them. FREE, but I would also trade them for Aoyue 937 heaters.

-Jon Bousselot KK6VLO

Contact me at jon-bousselot@pacbell.net



For Sale

Rigblaster Pro model #58002-953. Bought but never used, like new condition. Includes all cables and DVD of software (see photos). Original retail price was \$299.95, current retail price is \$269.95, and my asking price is \$150.00 . For more details or to arrange for purchase, please contact Joe Bennett at w6vmx@rocketmail.com .

Wanted

Russ-KK6QWO - I'm a new ham and don't have anything except a HT. I'm looking for a power supply for my Kenwood base, a power cord and a 4 pin mic, not to mention a 2M mobile and antenna. Contact me at russell.wise@navy.mil.



Joe - W6VMX - I am looking for a Kenwood TM-621A (or a TM-721A too) dual band VHF/UHF mobile transceiver for parts only. Does not need to be working, just looking to use it to replace parts on another unit. If you have one you want to sell or donate, please contact me via my email at w6vmx@rocketmail.com to make arrangements with me. Thanks.





The **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON**^{Inc.}
WA6BGS

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and then see options at bottom for submitting to the club

Date of application: ___ / ___ / ___

Amount Paid: \$ _____ Cash Check Check # _____

Membership Type: Individual (\$20/year) Family* (\$35/year)

Membership Status: New Renewal Returning Member

Call Sign First Name _____ Last Name _____

If a previous member, what was your WAMO number?

ARRL Member: Yes No

License Class: Technician General Extra Other

Email Address (required) _____

Phone Number (optional) _____

**Use another sheet of paper to add Family members and please include the following information:*

First Name, Last Name, Call Sign (if any), License Class, Wamo Number (if any), & Email Address.

Submitting this form:

To submit this form, you can mail it to:

**Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022**

-OR-

Bring it to the next club meeting on the second Thursday of each month. You can find the date and location by getting online at www.wa6bgs.us which is the club website. Check it out for the most current information regarding the club.

Cash Payments - Get a receipt from the Club Treasurer. Please make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.

Members with an FCC Call Sign are full members with voting privileges. Members without an FCC Call Sign are Associate members without voting privileges.

YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. Is a 501 C 7 Corporation. Donations are NOT tax deductible.

Email address and phone number are to allow club officers to contact members regarding club business and information of interest.

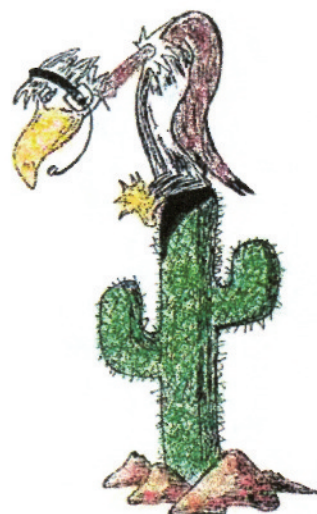
JEB

2016 SW Division Convention

Yuma Hamfest

Yuma, Arizona

Feb. 19 & 20, 2016



Yuma County Fairgrounds
2520 East 32nd Street, Yuma, Arizona

www.yumahamfest.org

Check the Website for Additional Information

Gates Open for Camping Thursday, 2 pm Vendor Setup Friday, 7 am - Noon	Event Hours Friday, Noon - 5 pm Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm	Hamfest Dinner & Grand Prize Drawing Saturday Night 6:00 - 8:00 pm
---	---	---

**Vendors & Exhibitors
Consignment Sales
License Testing
Hourly Door Prizes
On-site RV Camping
Hamfest Dinner
ARRL Speaker
Transmitter Hunt
\$5.00 Admission**

**Tailgating (Swap Meet)
Full Seminar Schedule
DXCC Card Checking
Incredible Grand Prizes
Emergency Preparedness
Admission Prize
Hospitality Area
Near Space Balloon Launch
Antenna Clinic**

Hamfest Talk-In Frequency: 146.840 (-) PL 88.5 Hz

Email Contact: ***info@yumahamfest.org***



We are proud to have the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona (ARCA) as a sponsor of our event.

The Yuma Hamfest is an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sanctioned event.



Presented by the Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization